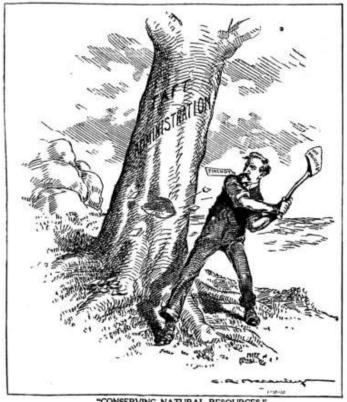
Pinchot Knob

The Visit of Gifford Pinchot, the First Chief Forester of the US Forest Service, to the Sierra National Forest in 1907



"CONSERVING NATURAL RESOURCES

Pinchot Chops at Tree, 1910

Although this image was published in 1910 as a political statement on Gifford Pinchot's attack on the administration of President Taft, it is used here to simply illustrate Pinchot's actions one day on the Sierra National Forest, where he reportedly swung an ax to blaze trees for marking in a timber sale.

http://www.fs.fed.us/greatestgood/images/gallery/cartoons/Cartoons/photos/photo6.shtml

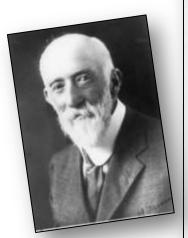
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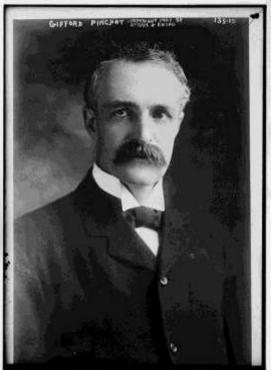
Steve Marsh **District Archaeologist** High Sierra Ranger District Sierra National Forest 2015

THE FRESNO BEE

Forest Conservation Concept Began In Sierra



Charles H. Shinn First Sierra National Forest Supervisor



Ranger Gene Tully



Julia Tyler Shinn

Gifford Pinchot, 1907

LOS ANGELES HERALD: SATURDAY MORNING, JULY 27, 1807.

UNITED STATES FORESTER INSPECTS TIMBER RESERVES

By Associated Press.

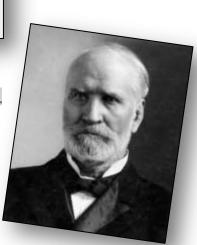
SACRAMENTO, Cal., July 26.—United States Forester Pinchot left this morning for Madera county, where he goes to inspect several timber reserves belonging

to the government.

He will remain in the south several weeks.

He expects to be joined at Norfolk by Secretary of Agriculture Wilson. The latter will soon start on his trip

Both have made plans to attend the rational irrigation congress, which meets here in September, and it is probable the two will come to Sacramento in company.



Secretary of Agriculture James Wilson

Pinchot: George Grantham Bain Collection (Library of Congress). Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C. http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/ggb2004000800/, 1907; Charles (1924) and Julia Shinn (1888), Gene Tully (1905), SNF Historic Photograph Collection; Wilson, Wikipedia.com (n.d.)

Pinchot Knob

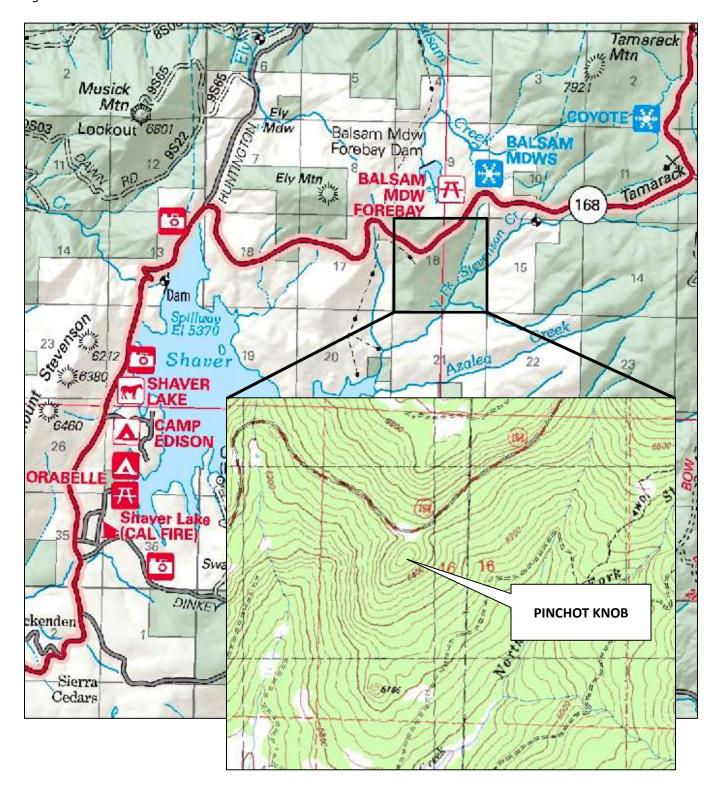
The Visit of Gifford Pinchot, the First Chief Forester of the US Forest Service, to the Sierra National Forest in 1907

On Highway 168, just east of Shaver Lake, in a section of the Sierra National Forest (SNF) landlocked within the private lands of Southern California Edison Co. (SCE), is a knoll overlooking the North Fork of Stevenson Creek and Shaver Lake (Figure 1). On the knoll, in 1987, six old Jeffrey pines were found to have timeworn axe blazes, some also with a "US" brand, and were recorded as a historic cultural resource site (Photos, page 12-13).¹ The Site Record states that, "local Forest Service lore has it that the trees at this site were marked during a training session conducted by [first Forest Service Chief] Gifford Pinchot in the early 1900s."

Although it does not appear labeled as such on any map, the knoll along Highway 168 has been known for decades as 'Pinchot Knob' (Figure 1).² Retired SNF Pineridge District Ranger Robert Thompson (service 1955-1971) reported that the site was once intended to be set up as a parking area with toilets and picnic tables and a self-conducted tour of the blazed trees called the Gifford Pinchot Picnic Site, but the site was never fully developed, and later abandoned as difficult to service (Figures 2, 3).³ Thompson said that the location of the picnic site was based on the assumption that it was Pinchot's training location, but he did not recall if that was ever verified (Thompson 1986; 1981). Retired SNF forester Tom Catchpole (service 1976-2002) does not recall any developed recreation facility on the knob despite it being known as the picnic site (Catchpole 2015). In the late 1970s, the SNF prepared the 'Picnic Timber Sale' along Highway 168 in the vicinity, which was named as a nod to the site (Catchpole 2015).

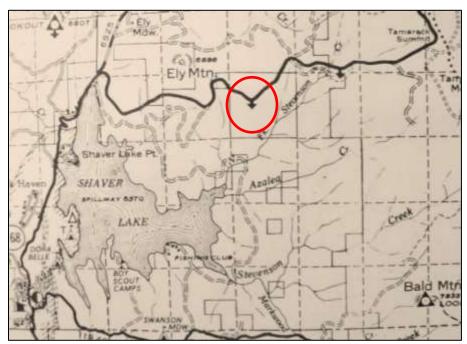
Although unofficial, the name "Pinchot Knob" is a memorial to a remarkable visit to the Sierra National Forest by the first Chief Forester, Gifford Pinchot, in 1907. During that visit, he travelled about the forest examining the work of the Rangers and inspecting the conditions of the new National Forest. Although there is no direct eyewitness testimony available to the training session that had become part of local lore by the mid-1950s, the Chief Forester did visit a Forest Service timber sale near Shaver Lake, which included the area now called Pinchot Knob.⁴

Figure 1: Pinchot Knob



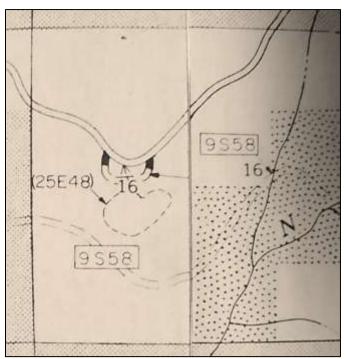
Sierra National Forest, Township 9 South, Range 25 East, Section 16

Figure 2: Gifford Pinchot Picnic Site on Highway 168.



1964 Sierra National Forest Map, with symbol for "Scenic Overlook" at location of Pinchot Knob. It is not scenic from the highway shoulder; one has to climb to the top of the knoll for the view.

Figure 3: Gifford Pinchot Picnic Site



Section 16: This map excerpt from an old Pineridge Ranger District Special Uses Atlas dating from the mid-1960s is the only map to be found that shows a highway turnout and foot trail (25E48) at the former site of the Gifford Pinchot Picnic Site, indicating there was some actual or planned facility development.

On August 16, 1907, the Fresno Morning Republican newspaper interviewed Gifford Pinchot, the first Chief Forester of the U.S. Forest Service, on his departure from a tour of inspection of the Sierra National Forest. Pinchot had been making timber and grazing inspections in the forests of the west that summer, and was headed next to the Sierra South National Forest (soon to become the Sequoia National Forest) and the forests of southern California. The newspaper noted that, "he [Pinchot] had spent day before yesterday in the vicinity of Shaver where the government has made a large sale of timber to the Fresno Flume and Irrigation Company" (Fresno Morning Republican 1907).

Fifty years later, in 1957, the Fresno Bee Republican Newspaper published an article commemorating this activity by Pinchot, and expounded on the details of his visit to the Shaver Lake area (Page 14). The headline read: **Plaque Is Needed For Logging Site**, referring to the need to memorialize the visit (Fresno Bee 1957). The main source of the information in the article was a letter from Maurice Benedict, a retired Forest Supervisor of the Sierra NF (service 1916-1944), who first arrived on the Sierra as an Assistant Supervisor in 1909 (Rose 1994). The article cites Benedict's memory of the visit. "Everyone was agog because Gifford Pinchot himself came out here to do the first marking of trees to be logged," Benedict was quoted. A section of land (640 acres) had been cruised by Sierra Rangers, and when Pinchot arrived he went into the area and personally selected trees for logging. Benedict said that the first sale was made to the Fresno Flume and Lumber Company (as renamed later from the Fresno Flume and Irrigation Company) (Figure 4). According to Benedict, Jack Madden, an early ranger, helped Pinchot mark the trees, and John Miller, Harry Tompkins and Bill Parkinson were assigned as scalers when the logging got underway (Fresno Bee 1957).

Fig. Shaver
Shaver
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Tize Shaver

Figure 4: Early 1900s Logging Operations

1916 SNF Map; Pinchot Knob on Shaver Lake Trail (arrow).

The red hatched area is Section 16, SNF land in a National Forest timber sale, cut over or in operation.

The 1957 article does not make it clear that Benedict was there at the time, and he was likely telling the tale of an earlier visit by Pinchot which was still news when he arrived on the Forest. Nevertheless,

Benedict's memory was the link between Pinchot's visit and the commemorative newspaper article 50 years later, and it could have been inspired by the fiftieth anniversary of the event in 1907.

A few years later, in 1963, President Kennedy honored the memory and contributions of Pinchot, who was credited with fathering the modern concepts of forest conservation in the US. As part of this presidential recognition, the Fresno Bee newspaper ran a story headlined, **Forest Conservation Concept Began in Sierra**, which included the following information:

Few are aware that this concept was born in a wooded section of the Sierra near what is now Shaver Lake. It was in 1906⁶ when Pinchot and a group of foresters, including Charles Shinn, the first supervisor of the Sierra National Forest, gathered at a wooded site on the north fork of Stevenson Creek. Pinchot scrutinized the trees growing there, walked up to a towering pine, and with an ax, blazed the symbol, US, into its bark. He did the same to others and may have said: "These trees are ready to be logged. Take only the marked ones."

"Standing timber must be marked US near the ground so that every stump will show the mark," Pinchot later wrote into the manual which still guides forest practices. "Where snow may conceal the markings of the cutters, each tree must also be marked at a point several feet from the ground."

It is probable that the historic event was witnessed by several, but there is no record of it. Sierra headquarters in Fresno notes that after the ceremony, a man named William McKenzie sent his logging crews into the area to start felling the trees marked with the US symbol. When McKenzie went broke the following year, the Fresno Flume and Lumber Company took over logging that particular section which officially is Section 16, Township 9, Range 25 East (Fresno Bee 1963; Page 15).

The source material for this story is unknown, but as the author was the same staff writer for the Fresno Bee as the author of the 1957 article, it was likely to be a local source, perhaps from the Sierra National Forest, and even perhaps Benedict's earlier letter. William McKenzie began logging the section that included the knoll in 1905, went broke in 1907, and the Fresno Flume and Lumber Company finished the logging in 1908 (Hurt 1940); the 1916 SNF Forest Map indicates Section 16 as either an operating or a completed Forest Service timber sale area (Figure 4). Pinchot's manual quoted in the article was the 1905 Use Book which provided regulations and instructions to Forest Service officers (Pinchot 1905).

It was a bit of an overstatement by the Fresno Bee to claim that the American forest conservation movement began on the Sierra. This concept began in the 19th century with the idea that a balance existed in nature that humans needed to respect in managing natural resources, where watersheds and forests must be managed to retain water flow essential for irrigation, navigation, waterpower, and potable water. The concept was expressed in legislation for preserving the resources on public lands, like the 1891 Forest Reserve Act and the 1897 Organic Act. The conservation movement was formally launched in 1908 at the Governor's Conference on Conservation of Natural Resources, organized in part by Pinchot. Pinchot didn't claim credit for the concept, but was a tireless advocate of the idea of managing public resources for "the greatest good for the greatest number in the long run" (West 1992).

In conservation, Pinchot wrote, "Thus the timber is there, first of all, to be used. The more it is used, the better. Far from being locked up, it is, on the contrary, opened up, and opened up on fair terms to all alike" (Pinchot 1907). The use of timber meant the wise management of the resource to preserve and increase it. The 1905 Use Book instructed Forest Service officials upon the application of a permit for the sale of timber:⁷

The first step after the receipt of any preliminary application is to examine the timber. The most vital question concerning the removal of any living timber is whether it can be spared. The approving officer must know whether another growth of timber will replace the one removed or whether the land will become waste... If the timber may be cut safely, then the best method of cutting must be decided; whether all the trees below a certain diameter should be left to form the next crop, or only selected seed trees; whether the surrounding timber will furnish enough and the right kind of seed; whether the cutting may be unrestricted or confined to strips; or, in other words, what system will be surest to bring about satisfactory reproductions. All this, as well as to fix the quantity and location of material to be sold, requires an accurate knowledge of conditions on the ground... (Pinchot 1905).

Once the sale of green timber was assured and the conditions known, the 1905 Use Book required the Forest Supervisor to "order the marking of all trees to be cut. This is imperative." In his book, *The Training of a Forester*, published in 1914, Pinchot wrote about his interest in the technique of tree marking that he may have used on Pinchot Knob that day in 1907:

When the terms of a contract of sale have been worked out and accepted and the timber has been sold, then the Forest Assistant has charge of the extremely interesting task of marking the trees that are to be cut, in accordance with these terms. Usually this is done by marking all the trees which are to be felled, but sometimes marking only the trees which are to remain.

The marking is usually done by blazing each tree and stamping the letters "U.S." upon the blaze with a Government marking axe or hatchet⁸. It must be done in such a way that the loggers will have no excuse either for cutting an unmarked tree or leaving a marked tree uncut, or *vice versa*, as the case may be. The marking may be carried out by the Rangers and Forest Guards under supervision of the Forest Assistant, or in difficult situations he may mark or direct the marking of each tree himself. Marking is fascinating work (Pinchot 1914).





Historic Forest Service log marking hatchet, with US brand, similar to one Pinchot may have used on Pinchot Knob.

Images from www.worthpoint.com.

The concepts of tree marking for the Forest Service that were laid out in the 1905 Use Book and that Pinchot later published in 1914 were practiced on Pinchot Knob in 1907, where trees once stood with "US" branded blazes. Whether or not Pinchot actually swung the axe that day or not, he was almost certainly reviewing and instructing the new Rangers of the early Sierra National Forest, as he did during his tours of the west. For that alone, Pinchot's visit was remarkable, but he also had time on his inspection tour to visit with the Sierra National Forest staff, and learn about the ways and needs of managing the different uses and resources of the Sierras.

In the summer of 1907, Pinchot was on a tour of the western forests, with the purpose of "examination of field and office work of forest officers and instructions to and consultation with them" (USFS 1908b). On July 26, 1907, Pinchot left Sacramento for the town of North Fork, California, the headquarters of the Sierra Forest, to inspect timber reserves, expecting to be joined by Secretary of Agriculture Wilson (Los Angeles Herald 1907). Forest Service meeting records for 1907 show that Pinchot gave an address in Colusa, California (north of Sacramento) on July 28, and then attended a meeting of Forest Supervisors in Los Angeles on August 26 (USFS 1908, Los Angeles Herald 1907a)¹⁰, giving him almost a month free between appointments on his calendar.

In late July 1907, the Forest Service was also holding civil service examinations for the position of Forest Ranger at each National Forest (Pacific Rural Press 1907). Robert Beard had just passed the exam to become a ranger and found his experience noteworthy: "I received notice August 1st, that I had been recommended for appointment as a forest guard, and to report to Forest Supervisor Chas. H. Shinn, Northfork, California. Here I met The Forester, Gifford Pinchot, with two other Washington officials on a tour of California Forests" (USFS 1933). Meeting the Chief was a heady experience for a new Sierra Forest Service employee.

An excerpt of a letter from John Miller, a Forest Service entomologist stationed on the Sierra at the Supervisor's Headquarters, briefly recalled Pinchot's visit and the delight it brought to the Sierra:

August 4, 1907. We are still having plenty of excitement up at the camp. Mr. Pinchot, the Chief Forester from Washington, came up here last Saturday with the Chief of the Survey and a few more big men from Washington to stay a few weeks. The Secretary of Agriculture is expected in a few days (Wickman 2005).

Secretary of Agriculture James Wilson arrived in San Francisco on August 8 on his official tour of the Forest Reserves, with the plan to depart the next day (SF Chronicle 1907). His intention was to spend ten days on one of the national forests in the Sierra reserves making "a close personal inspection of the work of the Forest Service in relation to the sale of timber, the grazing of live stock, the protection of watersheds and the use of water for power purposes" (SF Chronicle 1907b). The Oakland Tribune (1907) reported that Wilson instead left to return to Washington on August 11 planning on making a stop in Denver, in which he made an address on August 15 (Denver Rocky Mountain News 1907). Wilson apparently abandoned the plan to accompany Pinchot and headed back east, perhaps because of a bad cold he caught in Oregon before arriving in California (SF Chronicle 1907).

Despite the absence of the Cabinet Secretary, Pinchot's visit in 1907 made a deep impression on the personnel of the fledgling National Forest, and especially on Julia Tyler Shinn, the wife of Charles H. Shinn, the first Sierra National Forest Supervisor (service 1902-1911). Julia Shinn assisted her husband with Forest administration and became an official Forest Service employee as a clerk in 1907, serving until 1923 (Shinn 1959). Mrs. Shinn wrote of Pinchot's visit decades later. In 1937, Pinchot met Mrs. Shinn in San Francisco, and asked her to write her memories of the early days of the Forest Service for him as he was writing his autobiography (Steen 2001). Mrs. Shinn wrote back to Pinchot, and her narrative included the following anecdote:

Our banner year was 1907, when the Forester, with the District Forester and Captain Adams¹¹, came to the Sierra. It was, of course, an official visit, but in the evening by the campfire, there was no sense of superior and inferior rating: all of us were Service people, all loved the big

pines and firs, all sang together by the little folding organ Mother had sent me, all told stories. Ever since that marvelous visit the grove of sugar pines on a knoll near our camp—the grove where Mr. Pinchot spread his blankets—has been known as the Pinchot Grove and preserved inviolate¹² (Shinn 1937).

Mrs. Shinn also wrote of Pinchot's visit, "Of the many things to happen to the Shinns, perhaps the finest was the week's visit to the Sierra of Gifford Pinchot." She continued, "During that week, he rode all over the Forest and by the time he left, he knew it all—knew what we lacked and what we wanted most and had our undying personal devotion" (Shinn 1954).

In letters published in 1959, Julia Shinn again told of Pinchot's visit, mis-remembering it as in 1905:

That was a wonderful visit. I think I have told you of the disgruntled ex-Forest person who said: 'You Forest Service people! All that is necessary is for Gifford Pinchot to appear, and you fall on your faces!' Pretty nearly true. He was with us over Sunday, and I had my little folding organ at Ellis Meadow. We took it out to the campfire, and sang hymns that night (Shinn 1959).

Julia Shinn also told an anecdote of "kindly and sweet" Pinchot taking a "three-day trip into the higher regions" and returning with dirty laundry that he insisted on cleaning himself, again enamoring himself to her (Shinn 1959).

Sierra Ranger Gene Tully, one of the original rangers of the Sierra Reserve (Rose 1994), also wrote of the visit, and described the 'three-day trip into the higher regions' which left Pinchot with unwashed clothing:

During the summer of 1907 or 8, Mr. Pinchot and a party from Washington consisting of a Mr. McCormmack, United States erosion expert; Professor Holms, United States Geologist; Frederick Olmstead, later Chief Forester of District #5. ¹³ Ranger Billie Brown and [I] were delighted to accompany them. On the trail into the high Sierras, Brown and I listened to much forest [talk]. Upon reaching McQuarry Meadow, camp was made. After a days rest, Mr. Pinchot said, 'Tully, while these men spend a couple or three days here, to hunt and fish, lets you and I take a short trip farther back'. We spent a couple of nights at 77 Corral Meadow. We really became acquainted. We discussed many phases of forestry. He told about Forestry in France and his experiences. He asked me much about my background, and life in California Forests, and I told about the Indian and Pioneer method of protecting and preserving the forests....Mr. Pinchot then explained his plans for suppression, lookouts, emergency food and tools, and rapid transportation for first aid, suppression crews, telephones, etc. (Tully 1964).

Pinchot not only visited the backcountry, but also took in a railroad logging operation. In a 1923 memo, Assistant District Forester T. D. Woodbury wrote of the visit by Pinchot to the Sierra:

Years ago Gifford Pinchot took a look at a Madera Sugar Pine Lumber Company sale area on the Sierra after cutting, held up his hands in horror and issued the dictum that no donkey logging would be allowed on the National Forests. The result was a considerable period of inactivity in timber sales and small receipts. Mr. Pinchot soon found out that the heavy timber of the Sierra Nevadas could not be logged on rough ground without steam machinery... (Woodbury 1923).¹⁴

Stewart Edward White, an author who wrote of his experiences living on the Sierra National Forest in the early 1900s, described what it was like when people like Pinchot came to visit:

All sorts of people are to be met. Rangers are continually riding in and out – mountain men, graduates of the universities, all moulding to the same type. They have their reports to make, their instructions to get. Inspectors visit for weeks at a time, men from Washington, widely travelled, cultivated, intensely in earnest. Technical men pursue their varied and interesting investigations, timber, entomology, grasses, roots, sociology—everything to which a scientific mind gives its attention. They come with their assistants and their outfits, and stay a week or so at a time. One learns more from a college professor here than in college. If there are Rangers enough in, there is a big bonfire in some evening, and the scientist talks (White 1911).

On his departure from the Sierra National Forest, Pinchot spoke of the need to improve trails and telephone lines, for ease of access and communication, particularly in fighting wildfires. The Fresno newspaper reported:

Mr. Pinchot expressed himself as very pleased with the condition of forests from Yosemite south to Kings River and with the work which has been done and is still being done in connection with forestry there. He has not visited the country since 1896 and is greatly impressed with the advances made (Fresno Morning Republican 1907).

Pinchot also noted that the forests of Fresno County were on the increase and was pleased that the rangers were successful in keeping them so. He said, "I have never been as much impressed with the importance of the Sierras as conserver of moisture" (Fresno Morning Republican 1907). In an interview later in August, Pinchot stated, "Never before, on any of my tour of inspection, have I been so deeply impressed with the importance of the forestry work in California as I am at this time...the development of the forests on the mountain sides immediately surrounding the fertile valleys of California, notably the Sacramento, the San Joaquin and the San Gabriel Valleys, will add immensely to the wealth of the State and the entire United States in the years to come" (San Bernardino Daily Sun 1907b).

Pinchot described the Sierra forest in grand terms, so it is up to the stories told by Julia Shinn and Gene Tully and others to describe small details of his visit.¹⁶ Pinchot did not visit the Sierra National Forest again during his tenure as Chief Forester.¹⁷

These written memories indicate that Pinchot had time on the Sierra Forest to explore, camp, hunt, fish, visit logging operations, and spend nights around the campfire with his hosts, probably sharing information on the new precepts of forest conservation, on which he was pleased to see actual progress in the field by his service people.

Pinchot was quoted later in August 1907 on his inspection tour saying, "Another matter of great interest to the people of California is the progress being made in the plans for prevention of fires. We are perfecting a system of trails and telephone lines and organizations of all available men for fighting fires" (San Bernardino County Sun 1907b). The Chief, and his office, did not take long in meeting the needs that Pinchot saw on his visit to the Sierra for better forest access and communication, which made the national newswire:

Washington, Aug. 24 [1907] – The forest service has authorized Supervisor C. H. Shinn of the Sierra national forest (north), California, to expend \$6,400 in construction of cabins for rangers and for building roads, trails and bridges in that forest. The trails and bridges will facilitate the work of patrolling for fire and travelling through the region (SF Call 1907).

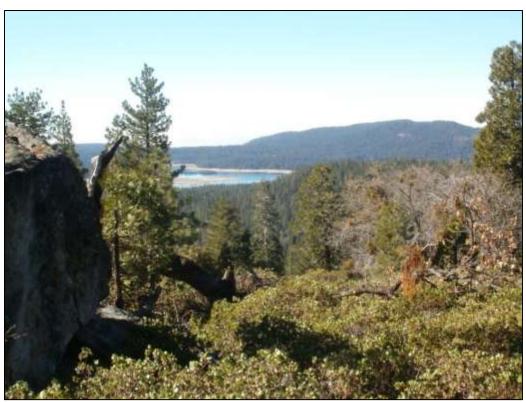
A year later the Fresno Morning Republican newspaper published an article about the Forest's accomplishments in constructing 65 miles of telephone line and trail, linking fire lookouts and ranger stations, to improve wildfire discovery and firefighting, a direct result of work initiated by Pinchot's visit (Fresno Morning Republican 1908). The work continued in subsequent years. Associate Forester A. F. Potter of Washington DC visited the Sierra in 1910, and spoke of the need to devote more efforts to improvement work, "especially to the construction of roads and trails so that the forests may be better protected in the event of serious forest fires," a need echoed by Charles Shinn (Fresno Morning Republican 1910).

Julia Shinn wrote that Pinchot had asked, perhaps around the fire one night at Ellis Meadow, "What can be done by the Service for these men who are working so hard in these forests?" Mrs. Shinn also wrote of the answer he was given,

And we told him that their greatest lack was forest education. If there could be correspondence courses on the first principals of Forestry, forest botany, simple surveying, and map-making it might help a lot. Shortly after he returned to Washington here comes sheets of questions on such subjects, and books from which to get the answers—Roth's First Book of Forestry, his own Primer of Forestry, and a number of others. The boys "ate it up" (Shinn 1937).

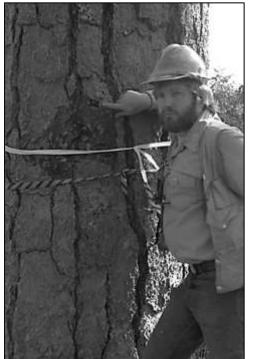
Pinchot's responsiveness to the people of the early Forest Service inspired much loyalty. Mrs. Shinn also wrote of a meeting of Forest Supervisors held on the Sierra where informative and inspirational talks were given, and at the end the assembly swore allegiance not even to the Forest Service "but to The Chief...for us out in those great pine forests, forestry meant Gifford Pinchot!" (Shinn 1937). It would have been but a small thing to name an insignificant wooded knob after the beloved Chief. Pinchot's 'training session' for marking timber remains part of Sierra lore, and whether or not he actually had a hand in blazing and stamping "US" into the big trees on that knoll, Pinchot Knob bears his name as a memorial to his visit. 18

In 2015, the blazed trees on Pinchot Knob are all dead. Three still stand as skeletons, the rest lie as logs on the ground. The Sierra National Forest has planned a new timber sale in Section 16 so Pinchot's legacy of conservation and wise use of the forest's resources will continue. ¹⁹



The view of Shaver Lake from Pinchot Knob, looking west. Photo taken February 20, 2015 by the author.

Blazed Tree Photographs, April 2, 1987, SNF Photograph Log 05-15-53-1-87





Left: Person pointing to US brand on edge of blaze on Tree "A" (frame 8). Right: Person pointing to blaze with upside down US brand on Tree "E" (frame 6).

Blazed Tree Photographs, April 2, 1987, SNF Photograph Log 05-15-53-1-87



"US" brand stamped in bark next to blaze on Tree "A" (frame 7).



Upside down "US" brand in blaze of Tree "E" (frame 5).

Plaque Is Needed For Logging Site

By Karl M. Kidder Anyone with any old monuments or plaques lying around gathering dust and unwanted?

There is a spot in the Sierra, about four miles east of Not too much of this section Shaver Lake, which well could, was cut over initially. On a and perhaps should, have some recent inspection of the area, manner of monument designat-Clifford E. Risbrudt, the tim-

forest lying on both sides of found only slight evidence of the new Shaver-Huntington early day logging. Lakes highway marks the site Benedict said, if recollection where today's method of se-serves, the first sale was made lective logging was born.

Benedict's memory serves, which would make modern back in about 1910. Benedict, lumbermen drool,

a former supervisor of the Ponderosa pine, for instance, Sierra National Forest, was an sold in those days for about assistant supervisor then. \$2 a 1,000 board feet. Today's Charles A. Shinn was his im-prices are nearer \$25 to \$30. ra's first supervisor.

Everyone Agog

"Everyone was agog because 50 cents a 1,000. Today it is Gifford Pinchot himself came nearer \$4. out here to do the first marking of trees to be logged," Benedict wrote from his home mill near where Shaver Lake near . Grass Valley, Madera is now. As the timber was cut County.

Pennsylvania and the founder snaked out of the mountains. of the national system of fores-try, headed the United States day Sierra ranger, fell the lot Forest Service for 12 years of helping Pinchot mark the following his appointment in trees. John Miller, Harry Tomp-1898 by President William Mc-kins and Bill Parkinson were

Benedict, who retired in ging actually got under way. 1944, recalls that nearly an en- The practice of selecting tire section of land (640 acres) trees to be logged has been was "cruised" by Sierra rang-followed to the present time, ers. When Pinchot arrived in national forests and on from San Francisco, he went some privately owned land. It into the area and personally has been the rule in the forest selected several score of trees since the day Pinchot marked for logging.

"He long had been an ad-pine, near Shaver Lake. vocate of the practice that you log a few and leave a few, then probably would be a good in 15 or 20 years you can go place to put that old monu-back and log some more," ment, or plaque, if you have Benedict wrote.

ing its historical significance, ber management staff officer A section of heavily wooded for the forest, reported he

ctive logging was born.

This was, as far as M. A. Lumber Company at prices

mediate superior and the Sier-Sugar pine sold then for about ra's first supervisor. \$3 a 1,000, now for about \$30 to \$40. Fir and cedar sold for

Floated To Clovis

The logging company had a into lumber, it was floated to Pinchot, twice governor of Clovis via a long flume which

assigned as scaler when log-

the first tree, probably a sugar

That is one reason the site one.

Forest Conservation Concept Began In Sierra

By Karl M. Kidder trees growing there, walked simple, but historic ceremony nessed by several, but there forester and conservationist President John F. Kennedy up to a towering pine, and in Central California's Sierra, is no record of it. Pinchot was twice governor of Sierra headquarters in Fres- Pennsylvania and was an adand the American people to- with an ax, blazed the sym-this policy never has changed. viser to President Theodore day are honoring the memory bol, US, into its bark. He did Some cutting practices have no notes that after the cereof the same to others and may changed from a silvicultural mony, a man named William The open meadows and virand the contributions (forest regeneration, health McKenzie sent his logging gin white pine and hemlock Gifford Pinchot, the first have said: "These trees are ready to and welfare) standpoint, but crews into the area to start forests on the 100 acre estate I chief of the United States Forest Service, at ceremonies be logged. Take only the Pinchot's basic policy is felling the trees marked with lories to illustrate land types in his ancentral home in marked ones."

"Standing timber must be "Standing timber must be zie went broke the following for the development of edu-Milford, Pa. History does not record his marked US near the ground year, the Fresno Flume and cational programs. Pinchot is credited with exact words or other details, so that every stump will show if fathering the modern con- But this much is certain; the mark," Pinchot later Irrigation Company took over The site marked with an ax s cept of forest conservation. What has become the guiding wrote into the manual which and finished logging that par-blaze in 1906 in the Sierra ticular section which officially again is being checked by for- s Few are aware that this principle of government for-still guides forest practices. concept was born in a wood- est sustained yield logging "Where snow may conceal the is Section 16, Township 9, esters and trees which were Range 25 East, Some of the saplings when Pinchot walked ed section of the Sierra near policy was inaugurated that markings from the cutters, wooden chutes used to skid through them, are being what now is Shaver Lake. day. each tree must also be marked the logs to a mill McKenzie marked for cutting. But not It was 1906 when Pinchot In essence, the policy at a point several feet from operated near what now is all of them. and a group of foresters, in-means that only overripe, the ground." Rock Haven still can be found. Only the overripe, overma-What had been the Sierra in the forest, cluding Charles Shinn, the overmature and competing lure and competing trees will first supervisor of the Sierraltrees will be logged to assure Forest Preserve had been offi-At ceremonies in Milford be taken, as they have been National Forest, gathered at a a continuous supply of ma-cially made the Slerra Nation-today, the president was to since 1906. wooded site on the north fork ture trees in succeeding al Forest the year before Pin-dedicate the Pinchot Institute of Stevenson Creek. years, or forever. Reading Bee Want Ads is chot came here. It is probable for Conservation Studies honscrutinized the In the 58 years since the the historic event was wit-loring America's most famed a Thrifty Habit! Pinchot

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Endnotes

¹ SNF Historic Site 05155300018, CA-FRE-2125H.

² SCE documents from the 1980s refer to the site as 'Pinchot Knob' (DWR 1984), and SCE employees and SNF retirees today know it as such (Emmert 2013; Catchpole 2015).

³ Thompson recalled information and photos once existed in the Pineridge District history files about Pinchot's training session, which could not be relocated in 1987 when the site was recorded. They could not be relocated for this account. Many such Sierra National Forest history files are now in the June English Forestry and Local History Collections, in the Special Collections Research Center of the Madden Library at California State University, Fresno. No specific information on Pinchot Knob was found in those files.

⁴ Shaver Lake was first impounded in 1893 by the Fresno Flume and Irrigation Company for the purposes of a log pond for their lumber mill, and enlarged in 1927 (Johnston 1965). It would probably have been visible from the knoll in 1907.

⁵ Benedict mis-remembered the date as 1910, according to the article. Pinchot did not visit the Sierra National Forest in 1910. Pinchot was famous enough throughout the country that his comings and goings were noted in local newspapers when he arrived in town, particularly on his summer tours, which typically began in July and carried through September. In 1910, Pinchot arrived in the San Francisco Bay area of California in mid-July for a speech in San Francisco, and then returned eastward at the end of the month to Utah and Colorado. He returned back to Bakersfield, California in mid-September, followed by two weeks of fishing at Catalina Island, attending the Los Angeles Mining Congress, and then the National Irrigation Congress in Colorado in late September. His busy itinerary did not put him in the Sierra National Forest, nor would he have likely been doing a training session for foresters, as President Taft had removed him from office in January 1910.

⁶ Newspaper articles indicated that Pinchot did not go to California in 1906. In 1906, the first Forest Supervisor's meeting in California was held in North Fork at the Sierra headquarters. At the meeting, supervisors of the Tahoe, Santa Barbara, Cleveland, Plumas, Modoc, Trinity, Sierra, Shasta, Sequoia, and Stanislaus met with James B. Adams of Washington and Coert DuBois, the regional inspector from San Francisco. Pinchot was not identified as an attendee (Bigelow 1928; USFS 1906), but did telegram the group (Rose 1994). Pinchot had plans to visit California and tour the Kings River canyon with the Sierra Club in 1906, but cancelled them due to pending legislation in Congress which had his attention that summer (Sierra Club 1907). Pinchot spent July in Europe with his parents, and returned in late August to Washington. In September he attended the National Irrigation Congress in Boise, ID, took a ten-day tour in the Sawtooth Mountains of Idaho, addressed the National Farmer's Congress in Nebraska, and returned to Washington in early October. Pinchot reported that his visit in 1907 was the first since 1896 (Fresno Morning Republican 1907).

The 1905 Use Book repeated many of the instructions from the 1902 Forest Reserve Manual printed by the US Department of Interior. The 1905 book was the first for the agency called the Forest Service.

⁸ A former Forest Service ranger wrote: "The mechanical part of marking consists simply of striking a cleansurfaced bark blaze at breast or shoulder height with a keen-bladed special hatchet and stamping on this with the head of the hatchet the letters "U.S." This operation is repeated on the base of the tree below stump height. Whether a man is fast at this job, which may be a big and time-consuming job on a large scale, depends on several things. He will be slow unless his judgment is such as to enable him to weigh all the factors and make his decision as fast as he can get to the trees, if he is either lazy or physically unfit for hard work, or if he does not avoid lost motion in getting around to his timber" (Perry 1938).

⁹ For example, Pinchot was photographed with a tree marking crew in Yellowstone in 1906 (USFS 1962).

¹⁰ Pinchot attended a "fine meeting that old time Supervisors will remember as the first meeting in California with Mr. Pinchot" (Bigelow 1928), held in Southern California in late August 1907 (San Bernardino Daily Sun 1907b), after his Sierra visit.

¹¹ The Forester was Pinchot, the District Forester was F. E. Olmstead, and Captain James B. Adams was the Forest Service special fiscal agent from Washington, in charge of the office of records.

¹² Mrs. Shinn also wrote, "in the summer of 1907, he [Pinchot] came himself for a visit—rode all over the forest, refused to sleep in our camp when he was near it, but unrolled his bedding and pneumatic mattress under a sugar pine grove near the entrance to the Ellis Meadow area" (Shinn 1952). Ellis Meadow was the summer headquarters of the SNF. SNF heritage files include a photograph dated 1910 of a forested scene, and attributed as "Near Ellis Meadow (now Benedict Meadow)—Trees were Pinchot Grove, now all dead" (Photo HP02985). The same photograph is labelled "Virgin Forest near Ellis Meadow" in Hurt (1940).

¹³ 'Mr. McCormmack' was most likely James McCormick of the US Geological Survey; 'Professor Holms' was Joseph A. Holmes, Chief of the technologic branch of the US Geologic Survey. He and Pinchot were in a travelling party with Secretary of the Interior Garfield earlier in July, and he apparently accompanied Pinchot to the Sierra (Woodland Daily Democrat 1907). Other newspaper articles show that Garfield left the group to go to Reno, Yosemite, then Southern California for an auto tour in the southwest. Frederick Olmstead was appointed District Inspector of Region 5, Forest Service in 1907; he was equivalent to today's Regional Forester.

¹⁴ The Madera Sugar Pine Lumber Company operated on the Sierra NF from 1899 to 1931 using railroad logging and steam donkeys in the woods (Johnston 1995).

¹⁵ In his stories, White fictionalized the names of actual people, including Forest Service staff, while telling about actual happenings. In his book, *The Rules of the Game* (1910), about the founding of the Sierra National Forest, White gives Ranger Gene Tully the moniker California John and Mrs. Shinn is called Amy Thorne (Popelish 2015). His book, *The Cabin*, was dedicated to "Our Friends of Peace Cabin", which were Charles and Julia Shinn. California John also plays a role in the book. White may have met Pinchot, as he was living on the forest at the time.

¹⁶ Pinchot's diaries and letters are in the Library of Congress in Washington, DC. A compilation book of Pinchot's diaries (Steen 2001) does not cover the period in question on the Sierra NF in any detail, nor does Pinchot's autobiography, *Breaking New Ground*. Pinchot did not keep a regular diary, much to the frustration of historians (Lewis 2015) and his diaries for 1908 and 1909 are missing (Steen 2001).

¹⁷ Pinchot did not return to the Sierra National Forest during his tenure as Chief. In early July 1908, newspaper articles told that Pinchot visited California for a fishing vacation on Catalina Island, and then inspected the Cleveland National Forest before returning to Washington at the end of the month. He met with President Roosevelt back east on July 31. In 1909, Pinchot did a tour of the west, coming to California the first of September, taking another fishing vacation on San Clemente Island, and then leaving for the east at the end of the month. Forest Service records of his travels in 1908 and 1909 also make no mention of another Sierra visit (USFS 1909; 1910). His 1910 California trip followed his dismissal from the Forest Service and included another fishing vacation.

¹⁸ In the vicinity of North Fork, California, there is a road named Pinchot Drive. It may also have been named for the Chief because of his visit. Professor Joseph LeConte had previously named Mount Pinchot and Pinchot Pass in the high Sierras in Kings Canyon National Park in 1903 in honor of Pinchot when he was chief of the USDA Division of Forestry (Farquhar 1926).

¹⁹ The Sierra National Forest has planned the Bald Mountain Restoration Project, expecting to implement it as the Swanson Timber Sale in 2017.